

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A stent system for placement in a body lumen which is expandable from a contracted state to an expanded state, comprising:

a stent having a roughened exterior surface, a roughened interior surface, and roughened side surfaces, wherein at least a portion of the ~~exterior surface and the interior surface is~~ roughened surfaces includes sandblasted particles to a predetermined extent for coating; and

a polymer-free external coating consisting of a therapeutic agent disposed directly on a roughened surface ~~the exterior or interior surfaces~~ of the stent.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the side surfaces that are roughened includes the therapeutic agent to a predetermined extent.

4. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 1 ~~3~~, wherein the therapeutic agent comprises Tacrolimus and the external coating is loaded directly to the roughened surface of the exterior surface, the interior surface, or the side surfaces.

5. (Original) The stent system according to claim 1, wherein the said stent comprises a stainless steel.

6. (Original) The stent system according to claim 1 further comprising a balloon catheter for delivering the stent.

7-20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 1, wherein the roughened surfaces include sandblasted particles ~~is prepared~~ by sandblasting with a particle selected from at least one of sand, glass beads, or corundum.

22. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 21, wherein the roughened surfaces are devoid of sandblasting ~~removes imperfections from the roughened surface.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 21, wherein the roughened surfaces are devoid of burrs ~~are removed from the stent before sandblasting~~ such that the ~~sandblasting produces a~~ roughened surfaces are a ~~more~~ uniform surfaces with increased flow dynamics and less turbulence.

24. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 23, wherein at least a portion of the surfaces devoid of burrs ~~the removing of burrs~~ include an ~~comprises removing the imperfections by electropolishing~~ surface.

25. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 21, wherein at least a portion of the sandblasting roughened surfaces include sand particles.

26. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 21, wherein at least a portion of the roughened surfaces ~~sandblasting~~ include glass beads.

27. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 21, wherein at least a portion of the roughened surfaces ~~sandblasting~~ includes corundum particles.

28. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 27, wherein one or more corundum particles are disposed in one or more cavities ~~directly on a roughened surface of the stent.~~

29-30. (Canceled).

31. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 1 28, wherein the therapeutic agent comprises Tacrolimus.

32. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 31, wherein the Tacrolimus is coated onto ~~the~~ a surface of one or more cavities of the roughened surfaces by spraying the therapeutic agent on said surfaces.

33. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 1 32, wherein the stent is annealed.

34. (Currently Amended) A stent system for placement in a body lumen which is expandable from a contracted state to an expanded state and configured for delivery of a therapeutic agent without the aid of a polymer coating, comprising;

a stent having a roughened and annealed exterior surface, a roughened and annealed interior surface, and roughened and annealed side surfaces, wherein at least a portion of the ~~exterior surface is roughened~~ and annealed surfaces includes sandblasted particles to a predetermined extent for coating with a therapeutic agent; and

a polymer-free external coating disposed directly on at least a portion of the roughened and annealed exterior surface of the stent, the external coating comprising a therapeutic agent and forming the outermost peripheral surface of the stent system.

35. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 34, wherein at least a portion of the interior surface and side surfaces that is roughened includes the therapeutic agent to a predetermined extent.

36. (Previously Presented) The stent system according to claim 35, wherein the external coating comprises Tacrolimus loaded directly to the roughened surface of the exterior surface, the interior surface, or the side surfaces.

37. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 34, wherein the roughened and annealed exterior surfaces include the sandblasted sandblasting particles in one or more cavities.

38. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 37, wherein the ~~sandblasting~~ particles comprise sand, glass beads, or corundum.

39. (Currently Amended) A stent system for placement in a body lumen which is expandable from a contracted state to an expanded state, comprising:

a stent having a roughened and annealed exterior surface, a roughened and annealed interior surface, wherein at least a portion of the ~~exterior surface and the interior surface is~~ roughened surfaces to a predetermined extent for coating with a therapeutic agent and include sandblasted ~~sandblasting~~ particles; and

a polymer-free external coating disposed on and abutting at least a portion of the exterior surface and interior surface of the stent, the external coating comprising a therapeutic agent forming an outermost peripheral surface of the stent system at the at least a portion of the exterior surface and interior surface.

40. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 39, wherein at least a portion of the side surfaces that are roughened include the therapeutic agent to a predetermined extent.

41. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 40, wherein the exterior surface, the interior surface, or the side surfaces are coated with Tacrolimus as the therapeutic agent loaded directly to the roughened surfaces.

42. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 39, wherein the ~~sandblasting~~ sandblasted particles comprise sand, glass beads, or corundum.